POL 14 VIETS
(1038)

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XR PPB 9 VIETS

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ACTION EA 19

INFO OPM 03,SC 01,RSC 01,USIA 12,H 02,NSC 10,NSAE 00,L 03,INR 07,F
CIA 04,DOD 01,SP 02,SS 35,SAH 03,SAL 01,IO 21,RSR 01,AID 30,
NIC 01,/161 W

R 071015Z SEP67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6377
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4149
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 906
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2454

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Jean Ingulsby DATE 12/23/81
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SUBJECT: SAIGON PRESS TREATMENT OF TRUONG DINH DZU SHOWING

1. SEVERAL SAIGON VERNACULARS HAVE GIVEN PROMINENT COVERAGE TO AP STORY FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING THAT "US OFFICIALS SUSPECT" THAT VC MAY HAVE VOTED FOR TRUONG DINH DZU. TREATMENT VARIES ACCORDING TO PAPERS' POLITICAL INCLINATION, BUT MOST CARRIED STORY ON FRONT PAGE, OFTEN UNDER SENSATIONAL HEADLINES.

(2)

2. XAY DUNG (PREDICTABLY) AND DAN CHUNG GAVE GREATEST EMPHA-

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SIS TO STORY. XAY DUNG HEADLINED "DID VC INTERVENE TO HELP

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LIST OF TRUONG DINH DZU": WHILE BANNER HEADLINE IN DAN CHUNG READ "DID VC SUPPORT TRUONG DINH DZU?" HOA BINH NOTED THAT "AMERICAN OFFICIAL CIRCLES BELIEVE VC SUPPORTED TRUONG DINH DZU." SONG LEAD SAID "WHY DID TRUONG DINH DZU RECEIVE MANY VOTES IN INSECURE AREAS." TU DO AND CHINH LUAN ALSO CARRIED AP STORY ON FRONT PAGE

3. COMMENT: ASIDE FROM PENCHANT FOR SENSATIONALISM, FACT THAT LOCAL PRESS SEIZED ON AP REPORT APPARENTLY REFLECTS GENUINE SKEPTICISM ABOUT TRUONG DINH DZU'S SURPRISING FINISH. LOCAL AP CORRESPONDENT INFORMS US THAT HE BELIEVES VERNACULAR PRESS HAS DISTORTED AP ELECTION STORY AND THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE AP HAS NOT PUT OUT ANY STORY SUGGESTING CONNECTION BETWEEN VC VOTE AND STRONG SHOWING BY DZU.

BUNKER

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